

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 7, 8 and 10-16 are pending in the application. Claims 5, 7 and 9 have been withdrawn from consideration as a result of the election of species dated March 20, 2007. Favorable reconsideration of the application in view of the remarks set forth herein is respectfully requested.

The title of the invention has been amended in an effort to overcome the objection noted by the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the specification is, therefore, respectfully requested.

The rejection of claims 1-3, 7 and 10-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Lipton (U.S. Patent No. 5,686,975) in view of Ma (U.S. Patent No. 6,020,941) is respectfully traversed.

Lipton is directed to a polarel panel for *passive* stereoscopic displays. The polarel panel of Lipton includes a sheet polarizer and a polarel array that includes a pair of flat glass sheets facing each other in parallel planes. A transparent isotropic material is laid down in columns, and LC material is disposed between the columns of transparent isotropic material. Importantly, Lipton specifically teaches that the polarel array is constructed like a standard LC cell with one exception: *there is no ITO conductor layer* (see, e.g., Col. 6, lines 29-32). Lipton teaches that his invention is *not* a powered device, therefore it does not need to be driven electrically. It is a passive stereoscopic LC display device (see, e.g., Col. 6,

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lines 29-36). Lipton confirms this again and notes another fundamental difference between his disclosed device and one that is powered, when he states that the criteria for selection of the LC material is broad because the device will not be powered (see, e.g., Col. 7, lines 33-35). Additionally, Lipton discusses a prior art powered device disclosed by Verhulst (U.S. Patent No. 5,007,715), and specifically criticizes Verhulst in stating the device of Verhulst is powered by the ITO layer, the device must be of a complex construction and there is an increase in cost. Even more telling is the statement by Lipton that the “gravest disadvantage” of Verhulst is that the device must be powered (see, e.g., Col. 4, lines 13-38, and specifically lines 30-31). Therefore, it is clear that the teachings of Lipton specifically exclude powered devices and specifically teach away from any combination that includes a powered device.

Moreover, the LC portion of the Lipton device is not a light-shield barrier as set forth in the claims, the LC portion of Lipton merely rotates the axis of the incoming polarized light in a fixed manner. The LC portion is passive (i.e., not powered). Thus, the state of the LC portion cannot change. Therefore, it cannot be said that the LC portion of Lipton is a light-shielding part as set forth in the claims.

The Office Action cites the reference to Ma as teaching the use of a pair of transparent electrode substrates, each provided with transparent electrodes. Ma is

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not properly combinable with Lipton for several reasons. First, Lipton specifically *teaches away* from using any conductive transparent electrodes because his device is a passive device, i.e., it is not powered. As noted above, Lipton specifically criticizes powered devices and teaches away from the use of powered devices. Lipton also describes in great detail that his device does *not* use transparent electrodes, e.g., ITO, because the device is not powered. Lipton also describes one advantage of his device is the broad range of LC materials available because the device is *not* powered. Therefore, it is improper to combine the powered device features of Ma with Lipton to arrive at the claimed invention. Additionally, Ma requires that alternating columns *each* be filled with LC material. Again, Lipton teaches away from this arrangement by requiring alternating columns of isotropic material and LC material.

Because Lipton expressly teaches away from the use of a powered device and specifically states that no transparent electrodes are used, the proposed combination of Lipton and Ma is improper. Ma cannot be used to overcome the fundamental deficiencies of Lipton, thus the proposed combination is improper and fails to render the claimed invention obvious. Ma also teaches an entirely different arrangement of alternating columns that would not work in Lipton, thereby providing yet another reason that the proposed combination cannot render

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the claimed invention obvious. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

The rejection of claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Lipton in view of Ma, and further in view of Baek (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0004687) is respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that the reference to Baek fails to overcome the fundamental deficiencies noted above with respect to Lipton and Ma. Therefore, even if, *arguendo*, the proposed combination were proper, the proposed combination nevertheless fails to render the claimed invention obvious.

The rejection of claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Lipton in view of Ma, and further in view of Eichenlaub (U.S. Patent No. 6,157,424).

It is respectfully submitted that the reference to Eichenlaub fails to overcome the fundamental deficiencies noted above with respect to Lipton and Ma. Therefore, even if, *arguendo*, the proposed combination were proper, the proposed combination nevertheless fails to render the claimed invention obvious.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the entire application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

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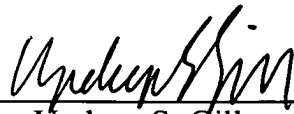
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Should the Examiner deem that further issues require resolution prior to allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney of record at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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